

CLAIMS:

1. A drinker for a watering system of a poultry house; the drinker comprising:

a housing having a side wall, a top, and a bottom defining a valve chamber; the chamber having an inner surface and a floor;

an inlet to place the drinker chamber in communication with a supply of water;

an outlet port extending through the bottom of said housing to allow water to exit said housing; said outlet port being defined by a side wall which slopes outwardly, such that the diameter at the bottom of the outlet opening is larger than the diameter at the top of the outlet opening;

a valve seat in said chamber spaced axially above said outlet port;

a valve member received within said chamber and movable between a first position in which said valve member engages said valve seat to close said outlet port to prevent the flow of water through said drinker and a second position in which said valve member is raised relative to said valve seat to open said outlet port to allow water to pass through said drinker;

a pin extending through said outlet port; said pin having a shaft and a head on said shaft; said head having a circumference greater than said outlet port such that said head rests on said chamber floor; said head further comprising a side wall, an upper surface, and a cavity formed in said upper surface and defined by an edge and a cavity surface; said cavity surface having a shape different from the shape of said valve member;

said pin being pivotally moveable relative to said housing to move said valve member from said closed position to said opened position; whereby, when said pin is pivoted said cavity edges move in an arc to engage said valve member to move said valve member from said closed position to said opened position, the movement of the valve member being dependant upon the amount of movement of the pin cavity edge.

2. The drinker of claim 1 wherein said valve member is a ball.

3. The drinker of claim 2 wherein said pin cavity is generally cylindrical in shape.

4. The drinker of claim 1 wherein the distance between said valve seat and said chamber floor is greater than the height of said pin head; said valve member being sized such that when said valve member is in its closed position, said valve member does not contact said pin head.

5. The drinker of claim 1 including a cup received within said housing; said cup being open at a top and including an inner surface and a floor defining a cup chamber, and an opening in said floor; said cup floor defining said valve chamber floor and said cup chamber defining at least a lower portion of said valve chamber; said cup further including a step in said inner surface spaced above said cup floor; said step defining said valve seat.

6. The drinker of claim 1 wherein said pin is movable both pivotally and vertically, whereby, when said pin is moved pivotally, liquid will pass through said drinker at a first rate and when said pin is moved vertically, liquid will pass through said drinker at a second rate.

7. A drinker for a watering system of a poultry house; the drinker comprising:

a housing having a side wall, a top, and a bottom defining a valve chamber; the chamber having an inner surface and a floor;

an inlet to place the drinker chamber in communication with a supply of water;

an outlet port extending through the bottom of said housing to allow water to exit said housing; said outlet port being defined by a side wall which slopes outwardly, such that the diameter at the bottom of the outlet opening is larger than the diameter at the top of the outlet opening;

a valve seat in said chamber spaced axially above said outlet port;

a valve member received within said chamber and movable between a first position in which said valve member engages said valve seat to close said outlet port to prevent the flow of water through said drinker and a second position in which said valve member is raised relative to said valve seat to open said outlet port to allow water to pass through said drinker;

a pin extending through said outlet port; said pin having a shaft and a head on said shaft; said head having a circumference greater than said outlet port such that said head rests on said chamber floor; said head further comprising a side wall, an upper surface, and a cavity formed in said upper surface and defined by an edge and a cavity surface; said cavity surface having a shape different from the shape of said valve member; said pin being moveable

in said housing to move said valve member from said closed position to said opened position;

wherein the distance between said valve seat and said chamber floor is greater than the height of said pin head; said valve member being sized such that when said valve member is in its closed position, said valve member does not contact said pin head.

8. A drinker for a watering system of a poultry house; the drinker comprising:

a housing having a side wall, a top, and a bottom defining a valve chamber; the chamber having an inner surface and a floor;

an inlet to place the drinker chamber in communication with a supply of water;

an outlet port extending through the bottom of said housing to allow water to exit said housing; said outlet port being defined by a side wall which slopes outwardly, such that the diameter at the bottom of the outlet opening is larger than the diameter at the top of the outlet opening;

a valve seat in said chamber spaced axially above said outlet port;

a valve member received within said chamber and movable between a first position in which said valve member engages said valve seat to close said outlet port to prevent the flow of water through said drinker and a second position in which said valve member is raised relative to said valve seat to open said outlet port to allow water to pass through said drinker;

a pin extending through said outlet port; said pin having a shaft and a head on said shaft; said head having a circumference greater than said outlet port such that said head rests on said chamber floor; said head further comprising a side wall, an upper surface, and a cavity formed in said upper surface and defined by an edge and a cavity surface; said cavity surface having a shape different from the shape of said valve member; said pin being pivotally moveable in said housing to move said valve member from said closed position to said opened position; whereby, when said pin is pivoted said cavity edges move in an arc to engage said valve member to move said valve member from said closed position to said opened position, the movement of the valve member being dependant upon the amount of movement of the pin cavity edge; and

wherein the distance between said valve seat and said chamber floor is greater than the height of said pin head; said valve member being sized such that when said valve member is in its closed position, said valve member does not contact said pin head.

9. The drinker of claim 8 wherein said valve member is a ball and said cavity is generally cylindrical.